REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 are pending in the application. Claims 1 - 16 have been rejected.

The specification and drawings are objected to for various informalities. The specification and drawings have been amended to address these objections. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8, 9, 11 - 13, and 15 - 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. These claims have been amended to address this rejection.

Claim 1 stands rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as well as 35 U.S.C. § 101. This claim has been amended to address this rejection.

Claims 1 - 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 1 – 16 have been amended to address this rejection.

Claims 1 is rejected over Beauchesne, U.S. Patent No. 6,128,626 (Beauchesne). Claims 2, 5-7 and 15 - 16 stand rejected over Hendrick, et al. "Production/Operations Management," Richard D. Irwin, Inc., 1985, Chapter 11, pages 226-244 (Hendrick) in view of Beauchesne. Claim 3 stands rejected over Hendrick in view of Beauchesne and further in view of Huang, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,151,582 (Huang). Claims 8 and 14 stand rejected over Hendrick in view of Beauchesne and further in view of Varga, et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0165805 (Varga).

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 1, relates to a computer implemented method of identifying potential risk due to potential disruptions in material supply to a manufacturing facility. The method includes identifying a component for an assembled product, the component being purchased from a supplier, where identifying the component includes identifying the supplier and a manufacturer's part number of the component, storing an identity of the component, and identifying potential risk due to potential disruptions in material supply of the component.

The present invention, as set forth by independent claim 2, relates to a computer implemented method of identifying potential risk due to potential disruptions in material supply to a manufacturing facility. The method includes determining a set of components for an assembled product, storing the set of components, determining a set of sub-components for the set of components; storing the set of sub-components, combining the set of components and the set of sub-components, and identifying potential risk due to potential disruptions in material supply of a component from the set components and the set of sub-components.

Beauchesne relates to storing information pertaining to manufacturing assembly information which may be combined to produce a bill of materials document. More specifically, Beauchesne discloses a database which contains table structures for storing a product directory index and a number of product related information entries, which are used to generate a bill of materials document for a particular user designated customer product. Beauchesne also discloses a selection menu facility component and a data selection component. The selection menu facility component enables an operator to access the product directory index for obtaining a number of key information values pertaining to a particular printed circuit board assembly. These values are used by the data selection component in searching and extracting from the database tables as a function of the states of predefined key values contained in the table entries, all of the pertinent information entries needed to generate and display a bill of materials document.

Hendrick relates to material requirements planning (MRP) in the context of production management. Hendrick discloses bills of materials and product structure trees. (See e.g., Hendrick p. 230, 231 and Figure 11-3.) Hendrick further discloses requirements of a data base that is used for material requirements planning.

Huang discloses a system for viewing a supply chain from a variety of perspectives. More specifically, the decision support system includes a server side and a client side. The server side includes a decision support system database that interfaces with a model engine that performs analysis of the data to support planning decisions. The server side also includes a server manager that coordinates requests for service and information. The client side includes decision frames that present the various view points available in the system to the users. A frame manager coordinates the requests from the decision support frames to access the needed data and models.

The database includes a plurality of fields relating to a supply chain. One of the fields relates to component supplier information. The component supplier information includes a name of the country of the address of the component supplier. (See e.g., Huang, Col. 114, lines 58 – 67.)

Varga relates to managing parts requirements processes for electronic card designs. More specifically, Varga discloses a system for managing parts requirements processes, including generating detailed bills of material with key information necessary for component selection and generation and which indicates multiple sources for those components. The system includes a data storage device housing databases of parts information, procurement information, computer-aided drafting information, approved vendors lists, and bill of material files. A bill of material assist tool allows users to collect and view parts data from a multitude of sources and make faster purchasing and design decisions for electronic card designs. The system allows a designer to view an expansive list of comparable parts provided by outside vendors along with pertinent information such as availability, end-of-life dates, and perferredness ratings. (See e.g., Varga, Para. 50.)

Beauchesne, Hendrick, Huang and Varga, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer implemented method of identifying potential risk due to potential disruptions in material supply to a manufacturing facility where the method includes identifying a supplier and a manufacturer's part number of the component, and *identifying potential risk due to* ***potential disruptions*** *in material supply of the component*, all as required by claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Beauchesne, Hendrick, Huang and Varga.

Beauchesne, Hendrick, Huang and Varga, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a computer implemented method of identifying potential risk due to potential disruptions in material supply to a manufacturing facility where the method includes *identifying potential risk due to* ***potential disruptions*** *in material supply of a component from the set components and the set of sub-components*, all as required by claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 is allowable over Beauchesne, Hendrick, Huang and Varga. Claims 3 - 16 depend from claim 2 and are allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 6, 2006.

Attorney for Applicant(s) — Date of Signature: 3/6/06

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen A. Terrile
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32,946